



American Civil Liberties Union
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EXHIBIT 13
DATE 5/10/09
HB 541

3/10/2009

HB 541

My name is Scott Crichton, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Montana.

I stand today in support of HB 541.

The ACLU of Montana supports legislation that reclassifies possession of small quantities of marijuana for personal use from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction.

Our current system is wasteful and unfair.

Marijuana reclassification will result in safer communities and fairer results.

1. Saves public safety resources needed for addressing serious crime.
2. Ends unfairly harsh consequences for individuals.
3. Thirteen other states have found reclassification beneficial.

Federal marijuana laws do not preempt or supersede state marijuana laws.

Almost all marijuana law enforcement is carried out by state and local authorities, not federal agencies.

Montana marijuana possession laws tax Montana budgets.

The current law is arbitrarily applied to youth and low income individuals. It undermines the rule of law and squanders precious law enforcement resources.

I urge you to support HB 541.